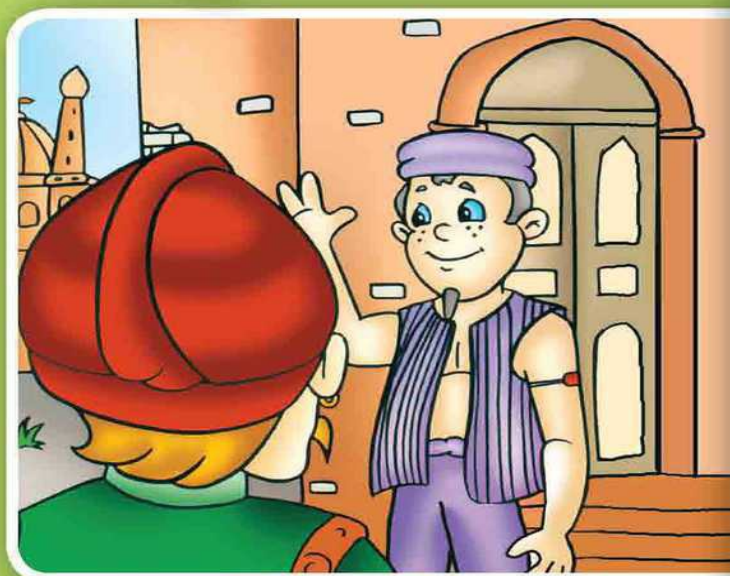


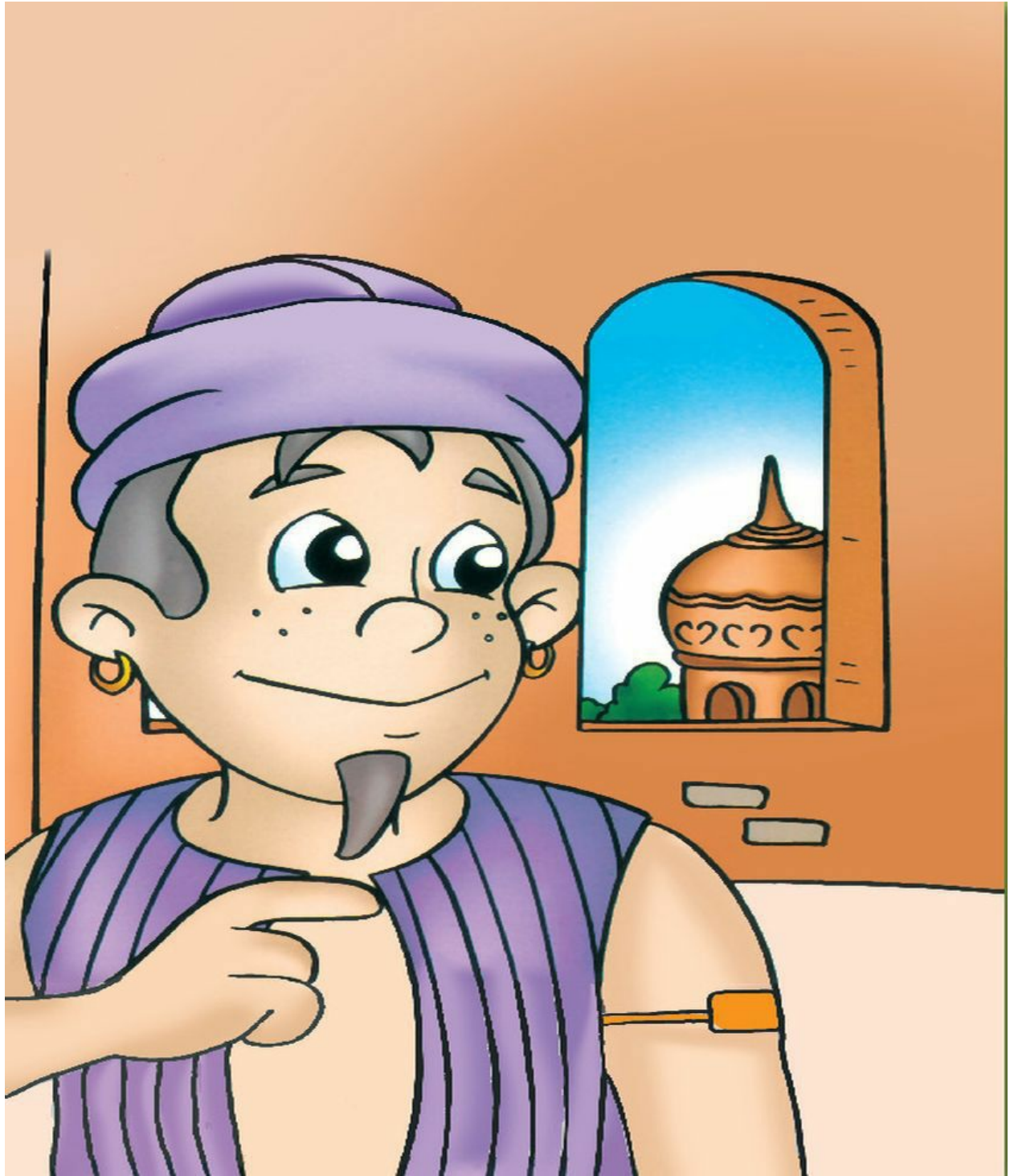
Classic Tales

Hatim Tai



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Once upon a time, there lived a man called Hatim Tai in Arabia. He was very kind, gentle, handsome and intelligent. He was famous all over the world for his kindness. A lot of kings were jealous of Hatim Tai.



Hatim had a horse which was very fast. When the King of Turkey came to know about Hatim, he said, 'Everybody says Hatim is very kind. I will go and test Hatim myself. I will ask him for the horse, and if he gives me the horse, then I will agree that he is the

kindest man on this Earth'.

The king and 10 of his followers went to Hatim Tai's house. Hatim welcomed them inside his house and cut a horse for dinner to serve and please his guests. The king and the 10 men ate a good meal and slept.



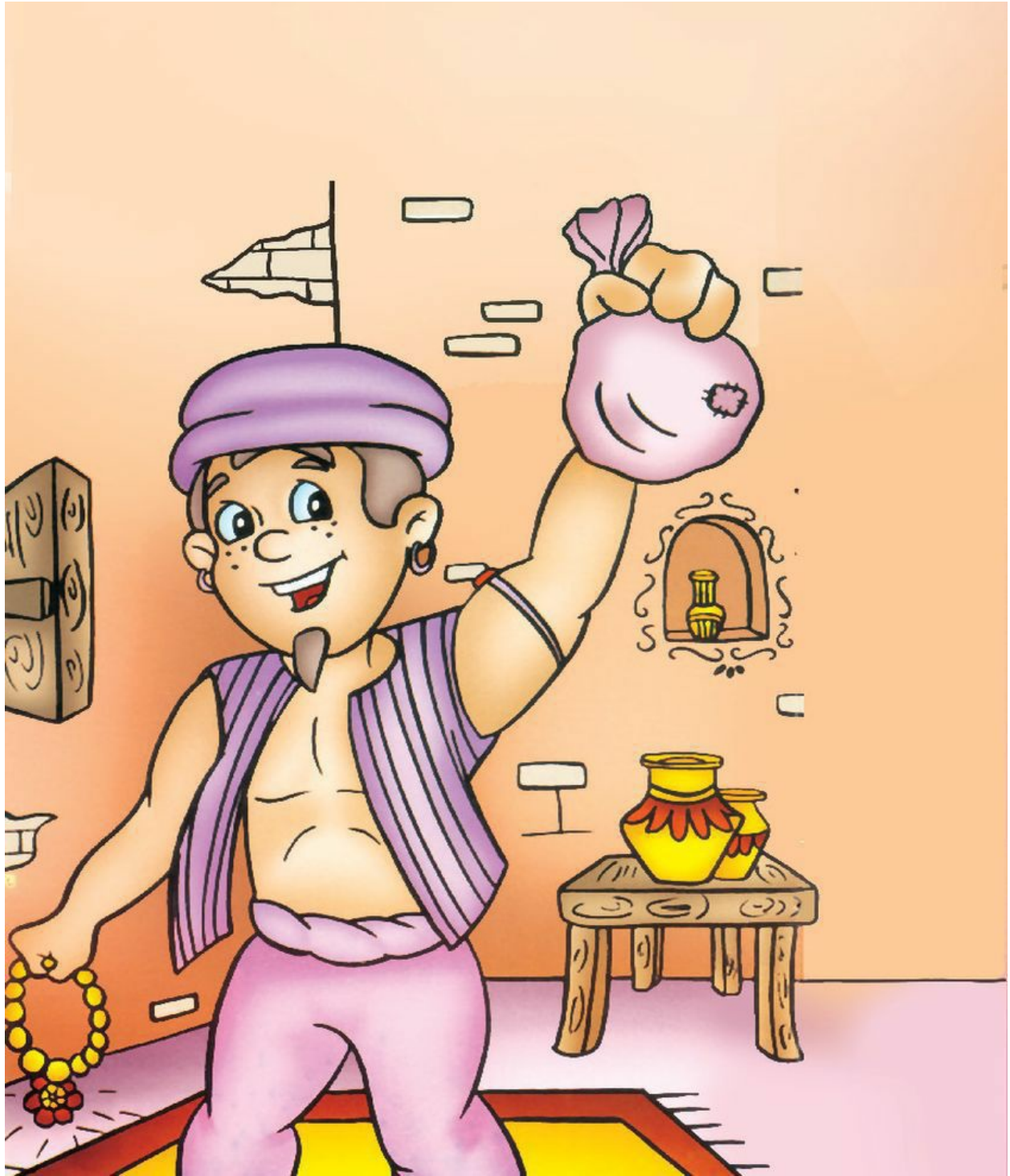
The next morning, when the king awoke, he said, 'Hatim, I have heard a lot about your kindness. I have also heard a lot about your horse. Please give me that horse'.

When Hatim heard this, he became very sad. The king saw Hatim's face and asked, 'What is the matter? Do you not want to give me the horse?'



Hatim burst out crying and said, 'O noble man! If you wanted the horse, you should have told me earlier. When you came last night, I had nothing to offer you. I cut that horse's neck so that I could serve you dinner'.

When the king heard this, he hugged Hatim and said, 'Everybody is right. You are the kindest man, I have ever met'. Before going, the king gave Hatim a lot of gold and other gifts.



The King of Yemen was very proud of his kind nature. Yet, whenever the name of Hatim was mentioned in his presence, he became angry. He said, 'How can you praise a man who neither has wealth, nor power, nor kingdom?'



One day, the king gave a party. Everybody at the party talked about Hatim. The king became very angry. He thought to himself, 'Till the time Hatim is alive, I will never become famous. I will have to get him killed'.

The king then sent a messenger to kill Hatim. The messenger travelled during the day and reached Arabia in the evening. When he reached Arabia, a young man came to him and said, 'Please sir, stay the night at my house'.



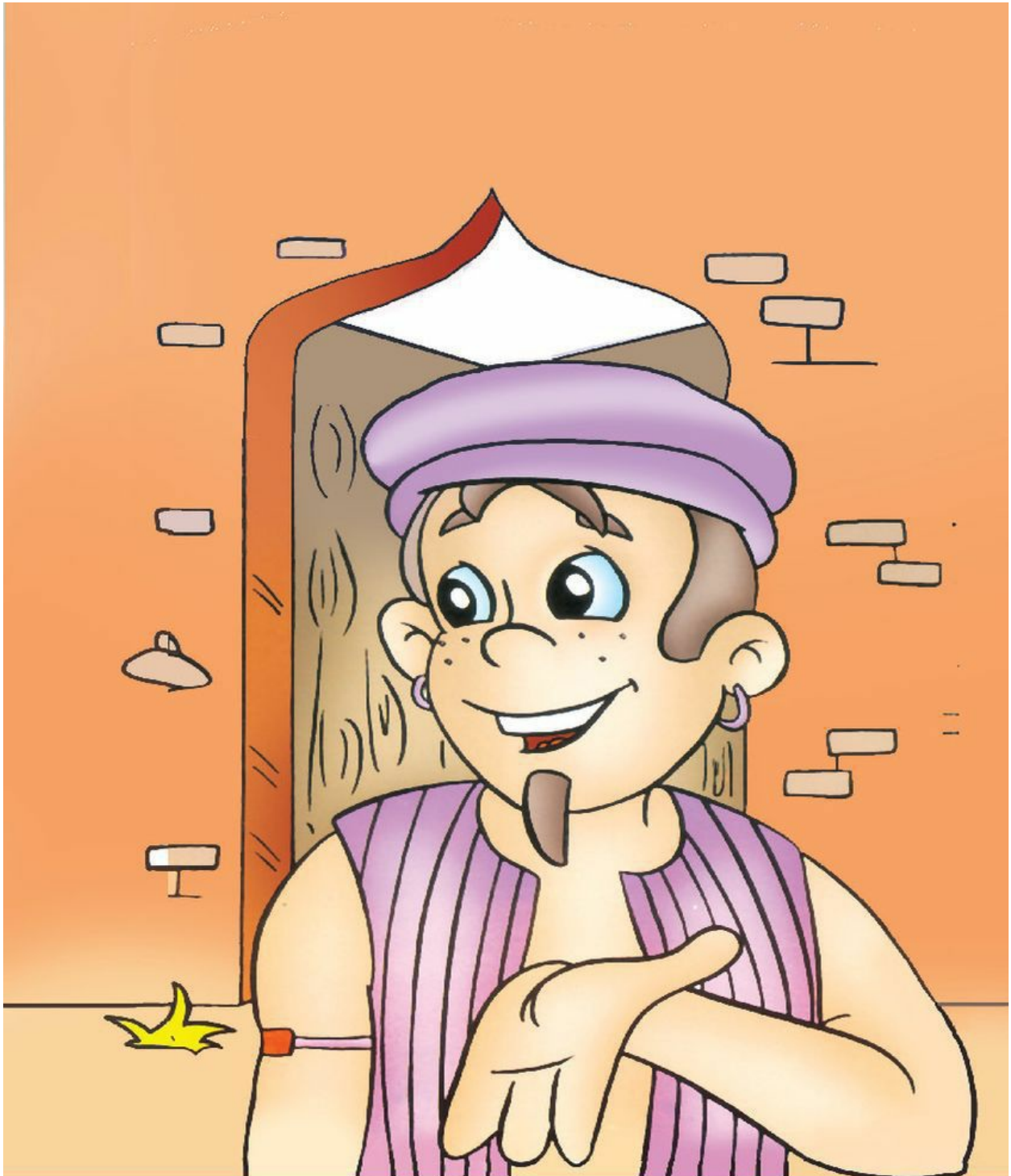
The messenger was hesitant at first, but then said, 'Fine, I will stay for the night at your place'. Both of them then went to the young man's house. The young man gave the messenger warm food to eat and a warm bed to sleep in.



In the morning, the young man kissed the hand of the messenger and said, 'I hope you slept well last night'.

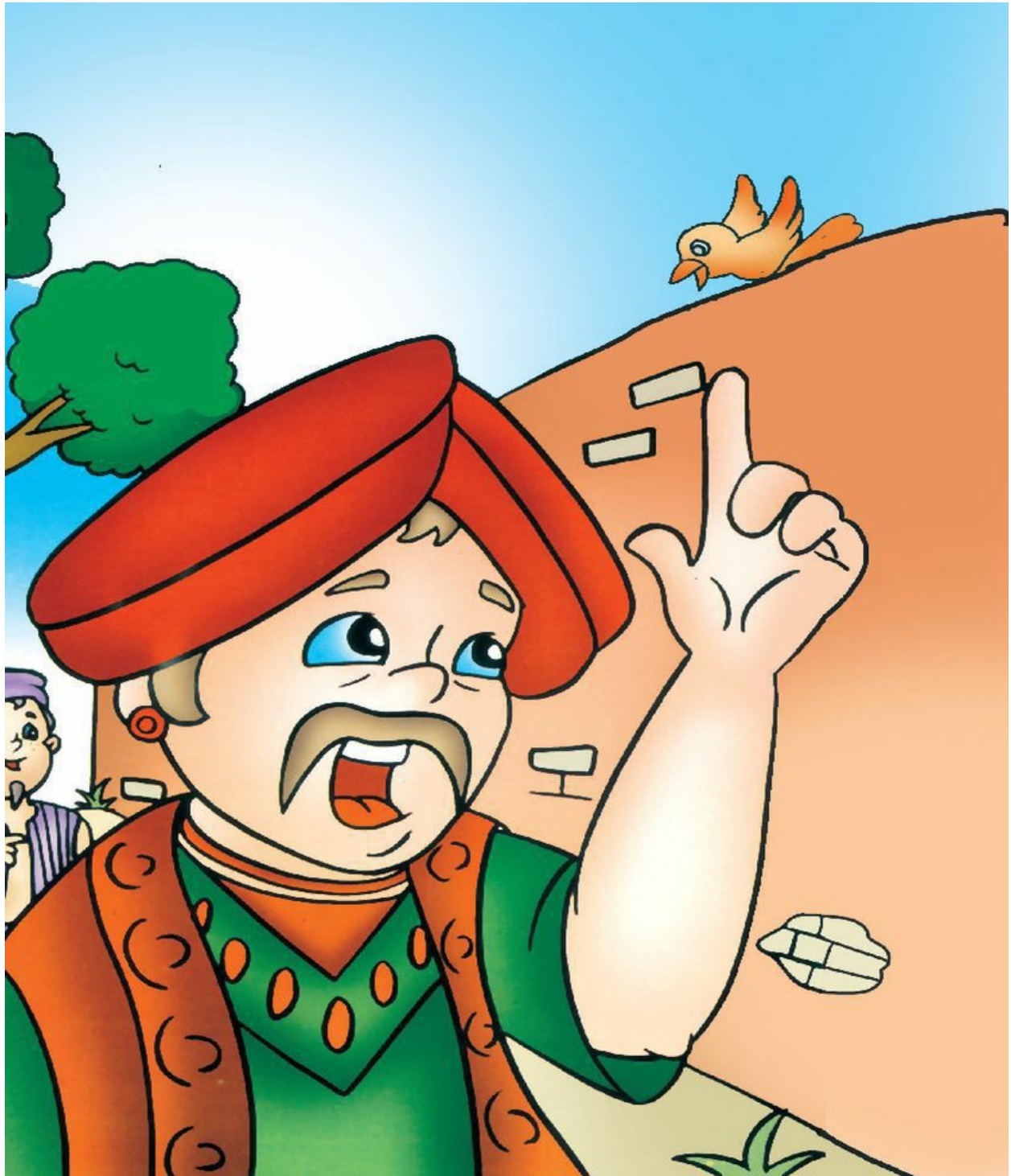
The messenger replied, 'I slept very well last night thank you'. (This young man was Hatim Tai.) Then Hatim said, 'Please stay with

me for some more days'.



The messenger said, 'Oh! dear kind man, I would love to stay with you. But, I have to first complete the work which my master has bestowed upon me'. Hatim bowed low and said, 'If there is any way

I can help you, please let me know'.



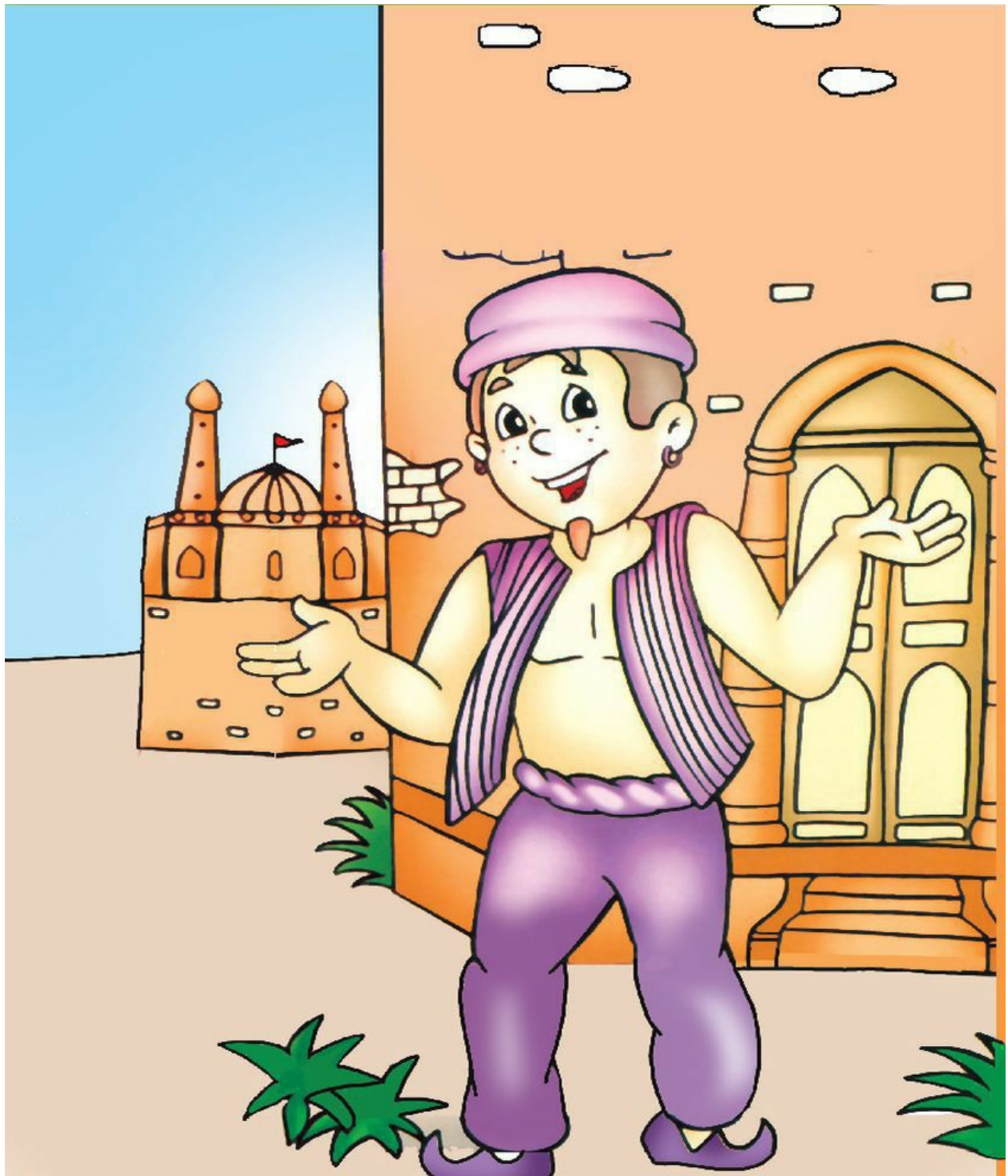
The messenger thought for a while and then said, 'If you promise me not to tell anybody then, I shall tell you my work'.

Hatim promised so, the messenger said, 'I have come to kill Hatim Tai. Please tell me the way to Hatim's house'.



When the young man heard this, he started laughing. He said, 'Dear friend, I am Hatim and this is my house. If you want to kill

me then, here I am'. The messenger fell in Hatim Tai's feet and kissed his feet. He then took Hatim to the King of Yemen.



The King of Yemen called the messenger and asked, 'Messenger, did you do as I had asked you to do?' The messenger fell at the

king's feet and kissed his feet. He then called Hatim Tai in the court and said to the king, 'Dear King, here is Hatim Tai'.



The messenger then told the King of Yemen, everything that had happened. The king became very impressed and praised Hatim a

lot. Then, the king gave Hatim a lot of gold and sent him back to Arabia.



Hatim Tai



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